

REMARKS

Preliminary Amendment

This Preliminary Amendment reflects preferred embodiments of the present invention that are commensurate with the elections made in response to the November 29 Restriction Requirement. New Claim 66 is supported by prior Claim 47, rewritten to be directed to the elected species of E-cadherin and non-elected species of ErbB3, RAB25, ITGB6, ZEB1 and SIP1. Claim 57 has been amended to add the embodiment related to ErbB3, which is supported by, for example, original Claim 19. New Claims 67-75 merely call out dependent embodiments of the main claims. Accordingly, the claims add no new matter.

Claims 47, 50, 54 and 60-65 have been cancelled, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Response to Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has restricted the claims of the invention into three groups, as set forth on page 2 of the November 29 Restriction Requirement.

Applicants elect, without traverse, to prosecute the claims of **Group I (Claims 48, 49, 50-53, 55-59 and new Claims 66-75)**.

The Examiner has also made a species election requirement with respect to the genes represented in SEQ ID NOs:1-194. Applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, the species of **E-cadherin**, which is represented in the present specification by a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3. Claims 48, 49, 52-53, 55-58, 66, 67, 73 and 74 read on the elected species.

Applicants have amended the independent claims to be limited to six species, the elected species of E-cadherin and the non-elected species of ErbB3, RAB25, ITGB6, ZEB1 and SIP1. Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of the species of ErbB3, RAB25, ITGB6, ZEB1 and SIP1 with the elected species of E-cadherin on the basis that the claims as currently amended are sufficiently limited so as not to place an undue burden on the Examiner. In any event, Applicants note that species election requirement is primarily, if not solely, intended to facilitate a search by the Examiner, and that the Examiner is obligated to examine the generic claims. Applicants submit that the scope of the claims of the present invention is not limited to the elected species.

Any questions or concerns regarding this response should be directed to the below-named agent at (303) 863-9700.

Respectfully submitted,

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